

## INFORMATIONAL MEETING OF

### THE DELAWARE AGRICULTURAL LANDS PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

An informational meeting of the Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation was held at the Delaware Department of Agriculture, 2320 S. DuPont Hwy. Dover, Delaware, October 14, 2009, with the following members in attendance:

Robert F. Garey, Chairman	Edwin Kee, Secretary of Agriculture
G. Ray Staats	Kevin Coyle (representing Collin O'Mara, Secretary of DNREC)
Lisa Embert (representing Velda Jones-Potter, State Treasurer)	

Absent: Lyn Davenport, Allen Messick, Jr., William Vanderwende, Joseph Wick, and Theodore P. Bobola, Jr.

The following staff members were in attendance: Michael McGrath, Howard Mesick, Milton Melendez, Scott Blaier, Cathy Mesick, Robin West, and Kathi Spangler.

Others in attendance: F. Michael Parkowski, Ms. Ellen Magee, and Mr. Dan Magee.

Chairman Garey opened the meeting at 8:34 a.m. with prayer.

#### I. Progress Report:

Milton Melendez informed the Board that we have a total of 1,025 farms in preservation districts totaling 150,223 acres, with a total of 564 farms under agricultural easements totaling 94,604 acres at a cost of \$158,524,819. For PDR 15 there are a total of 54 farms, comprising 3,985 acres, with a value of \$52,263,437. For PDR 16, there are a total of 9 farms, comprising 577 acres, with a value of \$6,895,414. For the Forestland Preservation Program there are 34 Forestland Preservation Areas comprising 2,506 acres. For the Forestland Preservation Areas Easements, there are a total of 9 properties, comprising 935 acres, with a value of \$1,414,428.

#### II. District Eligibility:

1. D. Brittingham Trustee District, ID#S-09-07-254 After discussion, a preliminary agreement was given, the staff will send the information to the Counties, although the Board was not able to approve this District for eligibility, not having a quorum.

#### III. Expansion Eligibility/Final Approval:

1. Anthony Crisco Expansion of the Clearbrook Farm District, ID#S-09-06-076C. After discussion, although this was an informational meeting, the Board gave the Anthony Crisco Expansion of the Clearbrook Farm District a preliminary approval. The final approval of the Board must wait until the November meeting, as we do not have a quorum at this time.
2. Hoff Expansion of the Dulin Brothers District, ID#K-09-09-120D. After discussion, the Board gave the Hoff Expansion of the Dulin Brothers District a preliminary approval. The final approval will take place at the November meeting.

#### IV. Secretary of Agriculture's Veto – Secretary Kee could not waive his right of veto for the above District and Expansions as these were not acted upon by the Board.

#### V. Public Comments – No public comments were received.

#### VI. Minutes:

Chairman Garey asked if there were any comments or changes to the September 9, 2009, minutes. Hearing none, the Chairman informed the Board that these minutes would be presented for approval at the November meeting.

VII. Financial Highlights:

Howard Mesick presented the Financial Statement for the month of September 2009, informing the Foundation Board that we may have to pay fewer of the Foundation expenses from DDA funds and more from Foundation funds. We had, as of September 30, 2009, \$175,990.02 in the Foundation's interest bearing State of Delaware account. We received \$385.00 from license plates and \$98.18 from rollback taxes. Expenditures for the month of September totaled \$25,061.77. After discussion it was decided to give a preliminary approval to the financial statement and have the final approval at the November meeting.

VIII. Executive Session – There was no need for an executive session.

IX. Other Business:

1. Wilson Farm RFP.

Michael Parkowski went over the draft RFP. After discussion it was decided that five Board members were all that was necessary for approval on the RFP, with a phone poll to be taken of the other Board members. Advertisements will be run in the State News and News Journal (two inserts) and in the Sussex County weekly papers and the Delmarva Farmer (one insert).

The RFP Review Committee will consist of Secretary Ed Kee, Chairman Robert Garey and Michael McGrath. There will be a written proposal submission and then an interview. The Committee will review proposals after the submission deadline of December 31, 2009. The Committee will have a recommendation for the Board meeting in January. The current lease ends December 31<sup>st</sup>.

2. Digital Soils Maps

For the next meeting we would like all the Board members comments on the new digital soil maps used in our staff reviews. At the next meeting we will review the old and new maps and get the Board's opinion.

X. Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Foundation, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m. The next meeting of the Foundation will be held on November 18, 2009 at the Delaware Department of Agriculture, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Robert F. Garey  
Chairman